A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Saturday, April 7. 1711.

I Made an Eſſay at my Notions of the War, I hope no Man will think I expect he ſhould be of my Opinion, becauſe it is mine; indeed, as Times go, I rather expect juſt the contrary—— Eſpecially from thoſe that are leaſt able to anſwer the Reaſoning part of it.

But I crave leave, tho' It may not pleaſe the Votaries of the King of *S—n*, to ſpeak my Opinion freely, they cannot ſay I do it now in his exil'd and Refugee Circumſtances; I ſaid the ſame in his Proſperous Circumſtances, and juſt what I have ſaid and ſhall now ſay, I would ſay, if he was at the Gates of *Amſterdam*; I ſhall ſpeak with no diſreſpect to his Perſon, he was ever my Hero, while he made what I call fair War, and went upon right Principle; and when he returns to purſue his own Right and the General Intereſt, abſtract from Ambitions, Revenge, Barbarity, and a furious bringing in the *Turks* upon Chriſtendom, he will be every Honeſt Man's Hero again—— And becauſe therefore I will ſpeak as becomes me, when Treating of a Crown'd Head, and remember that it is a Sovereign Prince, a Proteſtant, and one in League and Friendſhip with our Sovereign — I ſhall lay down plainly, why it is, that for ſome Time paſt, I have thought we could not favour that Prince's

Prince's Deſigns, and how far we may with Decency, Remark upon them; and in this I ſhall endeavour to ſay nothing, but what I ſhall anſwer to *Engliſh* Juſtice at any Time.

While he repell'd the Wrongs done him in the Attack made upon *Livonia*, by the King of *Poland*; upon *Narva* by the *Muſcovite*, and deſign'd upon *Schonen* by the *Dane*, all Men gave him their Wiſhes and Prayers; the *Engliſh* and *Dutch* aſſiſted him, held the King of *Denmark*'s Hands, till the *Swede* came up to his Teeth, and Landed under the Cannon of his Capital; then held the King of *Sweden*'s Hands, till *Denmark* comply'd with the Conditions offer'd, and ſo clos'd the Breach at Home between them —From thence Providence carried him on the Wings of Victory, and he overthrew the *Muſcovite* in the great Battle of *Narva*, where with 22000 Men, he Attack'd 120000 *Muſcovites* in their Trenches, and taught the *Czar* to ſeek farther for ſome better Methods, to make his Subjects learn to be Soldiers; from thence he flies to *Riga*, and drives the King of *Poland* from the Siege of that City, reſtores his own Dominions, and had his full Revenge on his Enemies.

In return, he enters *Poland*, Ravages *Poliſh Pruſſia*, takes *Elbing*, *Thorn*, *Poſen*, and *Warſaw*, Marches up to the height of *Crackaw*, Fights three Battles with the K. of *Poland*, and is Victor in them all ——— He puſh'd the *Muſcovite* at the ſame Time out of *Poland*, out of *Livonia*, out of *Ingermerland*, and cauſed ſome of his Troops which were enter'd into ſome of the Confederate Service, to make their eſcape out of *Germany*, like Men frighted out of their Wits.

Thus far we rejoyc'd with the King of *Sweden*, every one ſaid he had done Gallantly, and had he ſtop'd here, he had gone home Loaden with Victory, Honour, and Peace; for at this Time, the *Czar* of *Muſcovy*, King *Auguſtus*, and the States of *Poland*, would have gladly given him *Charte blanche*, and let him have made his own Terms of Peace, *as a Man may ſay*, in any Reaſon.

But what ſhall we ſay? Mankind are no more Maſters of their own Temper in their Proſperity, than of their Paſſions in their Affliction; and therefore the wiſe Man gives ſuch Encomiums on him that Conquers himſelf; Whether his *Swediſh* Majeſty did not think he had Corrected his Invading Enemies enough; whether he had not enough gratified his Reſentment; whether he had any Ambition unbounded, and thought the Power in his Hand greater than it was— Or what worſe Views he might keep his Eye upon, I ſhall not determine; but we ſaw by the Effects, no Accommodation, no Terms, no Treaty would ſatisfie, but Depoſing and Diſpoſſeſſing thoſe two Potentates, both the King of *Poland* and the *Czar* of *Muſcovy*.

Where will the Fire of Man's Nature drive him, when he gives a looſe to the Fury of his Paſſion? —— Here the juſt End of War ſeem'd, *if I may ſpeak my Opinion*, inverted, and the Cauſe quite alter'd; before the *S* —— fought for Defence and Security of his Right, and the juſt Satisfaction of an Injury —— The End being obtain'd — What went farther muſt ſavour of Ambition, purſuit of Glory, Revenge, which is a Peculiar reſerv'd by our Maker, even from Kings, and kept by Prerogative in his own Hands.

As ſoon as ever he went beyond theſe Bounds, and acted upon this new Foot, his Guardian Angel left him, the Bleſſing forſook him, and Heaven was pleas'd to humble him by degrees, and let him ſee that *the Battle is not to the Strong*, &c.

It is true, he was permitted to prevail upon the firſt of the two, and for the particular Ends of Providence, the King of *Poland* was driven to the Extremity of ſeeing a kind of a New Election made in *Poland*, his Rival Crown'd by his Conquering Adverſary, and afterwards the Victorious *Swedes* beating the *Saxon* Army on the Frontiers of *Sileſia* under General *Schuylembergh*, enter'd his Hereditary Dominions ——— Then King *Auguſtus* ſtruck his Standard, ſubmitted to his Fate, ſent him *Charte blanche*, and left himſelf in a manner to the Generoſity of his Enemy.

How

How generously he us'd him, is not my Business, for I am not Writing Satyrs; but let the forcing him to deliver *Count Patkul* (tho' an Envoy from the *Muscovite*) into his Hands——— The Obliging him to write to, acknowledge, and call *Brother*, the New King *Stanislaus*; the obliging him to restore the Trophies and Colours, taken at the Battle of *Calisch*, where the King of *Poland* had just obtain'd an entire Victory over the *Swedes*; and the long stay, cruel Exactions and Disorders committed by the *Swedes* in *Saxony*, let these Things speak in History, in Praise of the King of *Sweden*.

Yet here Heaven, before he quite gave over the *Swede*, put another Opportunity in his Hand, of making himself truly Glorious, and of being the greatest Prince in the World, had his Eyes been open to the true Principles of Glory; for here the Confederate Princes on one Hand, and *France* on the other, eagerly solicited him—Here he had the Ballance of *Europe* put into his Hand, and the Breath of his Mouth could have put an End to the longest, the Bloodiest, and most dangerous War, that ever *Europe* was so Universally Engag'd in—— Heaven call'd upon him to put his Hand to that Glorious Work of Peace, and with his Finger he could have sav'd the Lives of above 200000 Men, who have perish'd in this War since that Time.

Had he said to the Rolling Waves of the *European* Armies, *Peace, be still*, as the Sea and the Winds obeyed the Voice of our Saviour —— They must have obeyed him; had he said to *France* you shall give up *Spain*, call Home your Usurping Grandson, disgorge your unjust Encroachments, quit the Barrier of *Flanders*, demolish *Dunkirk*, restore *Strasburgh*, abandon Fort *Hunningben*, lay open *Alsace*, and be the same *France* you were at the Treaty of the *Pyrenees*, the Complaisant *French* must have pull'd off his Hat, and said, *Et bien mon frere je la ferai*, IT SHALL BE DONE; had he said then to the Confederates, you must content your selves with these and these Demands; you must give the Young Thing leave to call himself a King, and let him have *Naples* and *Sicily*; who will say that we should not have said —— *Whatever his Swedish Majesty says shall be done?*

Had he not 50000 Men on Foot, all standing ready in the Heart of the Empire to enforce what he should so determine, and to join with the Party refusing, and let any Man tell me, which Side could have withstood the over-ballance of that Power? The *Pole* was in his Hand, the *Muscovite* would have comply'd with any Thing; the *Emperor* could offer no disturbance, I had almost said Trembled at him, Witness the *Lutheran* Churches restor'd; Witness Count *Zobor*, and witness the Guarrantee of the Treaty of *Alt Ranstat*.

But his *Piper* made other Musick in his Ears, *asking Pardon for the Pun*; the flattering Prospect of Dethroning the Emperor of *Russia* led him away—— Whither? To his own Destruction; to the Ruin of the best Army, at that Time, in those Parts of the World —— He wanders after the *Muscovite* through Wildernesses and Deserts—His Men waste, starve, languish, and decrease; his General *Lewenhaupt*, an Old and Experienc'd Soldier, is Overthrown, coming to his Relief with 12000 *Swedes*, a vast Magazine of all sorts of Provision, Stores, and Ammunition fell into the Hands of the *Czar*, and which is worse, all his Money—Yet at last, pushing forward into the *Ukrain*, past any Possibility of looking back, or of receiving any Supplies or Forces, Surrounded by his Enemy with a vast Superior Force —— Yet he lays Siege to a Town, not content with this, and tho' the Town was not taken, goes and Attacks an Entrench'd Army with a Handful of Men; and thus abandon'd of his Politicks, and if we may guess of things by appearance, of Providence and Blessing, he is at one Blow entirely Ruin'd; his whole Army cut off, as indeed upon a Defeat it was impossible to be otherwise, and himself through innumerable Difficulties and Hazards, escapes through Deserts and Wildernesses, Swims large deep and rapid Rivers, and puts himself into the Hands of the Infidels for his Safety.

His

His flying hither no Man will Quarrel, for Safety will drive a Man into all kinds of leſſer Miſchiefs to avoid the greater — But having ſecur'd himſelf, what is he now doing? Reſolute in the ſame Meaſures, which I think 'tis plain have once Ruin'd him; he has kindled a Flame, which God Almighty alone knows who ſhall Quench, or how far it ſhall burn.

I ſhall not offer here at the Neceſſity his *Swediſh* Majeſty has on his Side, to juſtifie his Leaguing with the *Mahometans*, farther than this, *viz.* That an Offenſive War is never of abſolute Neceſſity; this War is purely Offenſive ſtill; the *Hungarian* Proteſtants when charg'd with bringing the *Turks* into *Hungary*, and putting themſelves into their Hands for Succour and Protection, have this to Plead in their own behalf, that Neceſſity drives them to do ſo in their own juſt Defence —— I cannot but think that this Pretence is wholly taken away here —— And this I ſhall Examin farther in its Order.

ERRATA.

REVIEW Vol. 8. N° 4. Page 14. col. 2. l. 10, 11, 12. read *We have had the Price of Coffee riſen Exceſſively, and indeed Extravagantly from what it was formerly, being ſold once at* 12 *l. per Cent.* p. 15. col. 1. l. 3. r. *laid*; l. 26. dele *either*; l. 31. r. *Moderation*; l. 40. *their* r. *theſe*; ib. col. 2. l. 2. r. *and the long*, &c. l. 12. after *aboveſaid* add *but*; l. 36. r. *by the Crafts of their Buſineſs, Traders themſelves*, &c.

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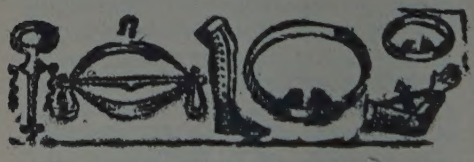

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